Pollution by dead bodies at Ganga Ghats

1666. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that thousands of dead bodies are cremated at the Ghats of holy river Ganges, causing a huge pollution in the river;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any plan to incorporate construction of electric crematorium at the Ghats at Brajghat (Ghaziabad), Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi, etc. under the National River Conservation Programme (NRCP);

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether representations from some Members of Parliament have been received in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (f) Disposal of half and unburnt dead bodies into the river is one of the non-point sources of pollution of Ganga. To address this problem, three electric crematoria at Bhairon, Ghat, Bhagwat Das Ghat and Shuklaganj in Kanpur, two electric crematoria at Shankar Ghat and Daraganj Ghat in Allahabad and one electric crematorium at Harishchandra Ghat in Varanasi have already been set-up either from State Government funds or under the Ganga Action Plan.

Pollution abatement works under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) are sanctioned by the Ministry based on proposals received from the State Governments. No proposal from Hon'ble Members of Parliament/State Government for setting up of electric crematoria at Brajghat (Ghaziabad), Kanpur, Allahabad and Varanasi under the NRCP is pending in the Ministry.

Environmental impact assessments

1667. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA:

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering revisiting the provisions existing under the Environmental Impact Assessments carried out for major and minor projects in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether concerns of wildlife and natural eco-systems are not being given proper attention while carrying out EIAs; and

(c) the details of steps being taken to take these issues into consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Ministry of Environment & Forests has proposed amendments in the